



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5136

February Session, 2022



AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF HOUSING-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2 "housing insecurity" means the lack of security caused by high housing
3 costs relative to income, poor housing quality, unstable neighborhoods,
4 overcrowding or moving frequently, and (2) "public institution of
5 higher education" means the constituent units of the state system of
6 higher education identified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 10a-1
7 of the general statutes.

8 (b) On or before January 1, 2023, the Board of Trustees of The
9 University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher
10 Education shall develop and adopt a policy on students at the public
11 institutions of higher education governed by said boards who are
12 homeless or experiencing housing insecurity. Said boards shall consult
13 with students, faculty and staff of such institutions and local and state
14 organizations with subject matter expertise in homelessness and
15 housing insecurity to develop such policy. Said boards shall review such
16 policy at least annually and update such policy as deemed necessary
17 and after considering the results of any survey administered pursuant
18 to subsection (c) of this section.

19 (c) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2023, and annually
20 thereafter, each public institution of higher education shall administer a
21 survey to each student enrolled at such institution for the purpose of
22 collecting data on the number of students who are homeless or
23 experiencing housing insecurity and the causes of and reasons for such
24 homelessness or housing insecurity. Such survey shall include, but not
25 be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic
26 background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital
27 status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to
28 accessing housing; and (3) awareness or use of community or
29 institutional resources to address homelessness and housing insecurity
30 and any barriers to accessing such resources. Based on the results of
31 such survey, each such institution shall amend any existing services or
32 programs or establish new services or programs to address the needs of
33 students who are homeless or experiencing housing insecurity.

34 (d) Each public institution of higher education in the state shall: (1)
35 Within available appropriations, make grants or provide other financial
36 assistance to students of the institution who are homeless or
37 experiencing housing insecurity to be used for housing costs at times
38 when classes are in session at the institution; (2) within available
39 appropriations, make grants or provide other financial assistance to
40 such students to be used for housing costs at times when the institution
41 is closed for a period of more than seven days; (3) establish a team
42 comprised of students, faculty and staff of the institution that is
43 responsible for working with and supporting students of the institution
44 who are homeless or experiencing housing insecurity and provide
45 information regarding appropriate housing and mental health resources
46 for such students upon graduation; (4) employ a staff member who
47 serves as a liaison for the institution and whose duties include
48 identifying appropriate housing and mental health resources available
49 to such students and using trauma-informed practices to mentor such
50 students; (5) employ a staff member, in addition to the staff member
51 employed pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, who serves as
52 a liaison for the institution for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and

53 queer students of the institution who are homeless or experiencing
54 housing insecurity; (6) provide trainings on trauma-informed practices
55 to enable faculty and staff of the institution to more adequately respond
56 to students of the institution who are homeless or experiencing housing
57 insecurity; and (7) provide or offer financial assistance for such students
58 to receive medical care and mental health counseling to address issues
59 surrounding homelessness or housing insecurity.

60 (e) Not later than February 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Board
61 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents
62 for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of
63 section 11-4a of the general statutes, the policy adopted pursuant to the
64 provisions of subsection (b) of this section and a report on the status of
65 the implementation of the provisions of subsection (d) of this section to
66 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
67 cognizance of matters relating to higher education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*